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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2916
INFO RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY 3746
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 2783
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DEPT FOR NEA/MAG, IO; GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/02/2009

TAGS: [MO](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA: MINURSO UPDATE AS OF MORNING OF
FEBRUARY 27

REF: A. RABAT 349 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)B. RABAT 326

[1](#)C. ALGIERS 321

Classified By: Pol/C Tim Lenderking for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Following up on reftels, Polcouns called MINURSO political officer Alexandyr Sporys the morning of February 27 for an update on weekend activity in Tifariti and a status report on expected activity in Tifariti and Tindouf on February 27 and 28 to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the SADR. Sporys confirmed that MINURSO Force Commander General Mosgaard had met with Polisario President Abdulaziz on February 25 and had reiterated the need for Polisario restraint during the anniversary festivities. Sporys said the situation had been calm over the weekend. Sporys reported that some 700 Polisario members and supporters, plus 250 tents, were on site in Tifariti for the festivities. While the situation was thus far calm, there was an "accumulation" of NGOs, including Spanish, eager to participate in the independence events.

[1](#)2. (C) Sporys said MINURSO officials had also spoken to GOM officials in Laayoune over the weekend concerning reports in the Moroccan press (Ref B) about possible demonstrations on the Moroccan side of the berm to counter the Polisario's activities in Tifariti. While MINURSO officials were not told specifically that the GOM would forbid such demonstrations, GOM officials did stress that any move toward the berm from the Moroccan side was unlikely.

[1](#)3. (U) Post will maintain close contact with MINURSO and other observers in the Western Sahara and will update Department on any developments.

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Riley